

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I have some questions for Senator Nichol if he would respond, please?

SENATOR NICHOL: I'll try.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Senator Nichol, it's been my understanding that the tuition rates at the Western Technical Community College are less than any other part of the state. Is that correct?

SENATOR NICHOL: I don't know. In our district we have three different type of schools. We have a community college at Scottsbluff and a technical College at Sidney and a nursing school at Alliance. Now all of those are different and how those compare with every other school, I really couldn't tell you, Senator Bereuter.

SENATOR BEREUTER: All right. Thank you. I may be wrong, but it is my understanding but if not the lowest tuition rates, at least one of the two lowest tuition rates are in the Western Community Technical College area. We've also had some discussion in Appropriations Committee when it comes time to allocating money about the assessments that are levied in the Panhandle area and how they seem to be substantially less percentagewise than they are in many other parts of the state. I'm quite willing to help the Panhandle Western Community College district if they are helping themselves adequately. Based on what information I have, they are not and you are pulling out of the pockets of my constituents here in Southeast Nebraska just to pick one of them, \$147,000 by moving to this formula. You're taking some money out of Metro as well, about \$150,000 and I can't do that casually. Not without a substantial amount of information, particularly justification for why the western area doesn't seem to be willing to finance their community technical colleges per capita and through tuition rates as we are financing those institutions in other parts of the state. So at this point, lacking further information, I would have to oppose your amendment respectfully.

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: A question for, I guess Senator Nichol or Senator Cullan. I'm not sure which one made the remark. One of you indicated that, I believe, that all of the areas were in support of this new formula. Did I understand you to say that all of the areas were in support of this new formula?

SENATOR NICHOL: I believe I said that and as I understand, yes, all of the residents of the various community and technical colleges were in support of this amendment.

SENATOR WARNER: As I recall, that was if the level of appropriations was at sixteen plus million?

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes, I believe that should be said, yes.

SENATOR WARNER: So without question would be that and it kind of appeals to me frankly. I would assume that if we adopt this then it would be appropriate to put an A bill on with 922 which could be done very quickly which would fund the difference between the current level of \$15,056,000 up to whatever level is appropriate in order to meet the